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The finest Stout in the World  
"BOAR'S HEAD"  
BOTTLING.  
SOLE AGENTS—  
H. PRICE & CO.,  
12, Queen's Road Central.

# Hongkong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1857.

Don't buy imitations, only buy  
**GENUINE TANSAN**  
BOTTLED BY  
J. CLIFFORD WILKINSON  
SOLE AGENTS—  
H. PRICE & CO.,  
12, Queen's Road Central.

No. 14,337 號第拾壹百叁千肆第 日肆十月正年十叁緒光 HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 10th, 1904 肆拜禮 號拾月叁年肆百九千壹九百零四

PRICE, \$3 PER MONTH.

**WATSON'S B BRANDY.**  
IS RECOMMENDED.  
Per Dozen ... .. \$27.00  
**A. S. WATSON & CO. LIMITED.**  
HONGKONG DISPENSARY.  
CUTLER, PALMER & CO.'S  
PRICE \$11.00 PER DOZEN  
NET  
"SPECIAL BLEND" WHISKY  
Bland  
Selected  
Distillations of the  
Finest Scotch Whiskies  
Apply to  
SIEMSEN & CO., Hongkong.  
**HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.**  
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WINTER SEASON'S GOODS JUST ARRIVED.  
AXMINSTER CARPET SQUARES.  
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CHENILLE AND TAPESTRY CURTAINS.  
BY ANFETS AND EIDER DOWN QUILTS.  
PERAMBULATORS AND MAIL CARTS.  
FENDERS, CURBS, FIRE BRAS ES.

**LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.**  
**CUTLER, PALMER & CO.**  
ESTABLISHED IN LONDON IN 1815.  
SHIPPERS TO CHINA FOR 75 YEARS.  
Their Brands are favourably known all over the World.  
The following are some of their Stocks with the undersigned:—  
**SUPERB OLD COGNAC,**  
\$23.50 PER DOZ.  
Distinguished by Four Stars on the label.  
ANOTHER FINE COGNAC, \$18.50 per doz.  
Less old than the above.  
**IMPERIAL BRANDY**  
\$12.00 PER CASE.  
**THE ELITE OF WHISKY—**  
**THE "PALL MALL,"**  
\$21 PER DOZ.  
11 Years-old: the finest quality shipped.  
Each bottle bears an Analyst's certificate.  
**O. P. & Co.'s OWN SPECIAL**  
**BLEND WHISKY,**  
\$11.00 PER DOZ.  
Very soft, palatable, and mature.  
EVERYBODY SHOULD TRY THESE ITEMS

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**ELECTRIC LIGHT**  
ELECTRIC LAMPS OF ALL KINDS AND AT MODERATE PRICES  
ALWAYS IN STOCK.  
EDM. JOHANNSEN,  
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**CONFECTIONERY!!!**  
THE CHOICE-EST AND LARGEST VARIETY, FROM PARIS AND LONDON.  
MARRONS GLACES, CRYSTALLISED FRUITS.  
TOM SMITH'S CRACKERS.  
XMAS PLUM PUDDINGS.  
DATES, FIGS, RAISINS, ALMONDS and NUTS.  
STILTON, CHEDDAR, GORGONZOLA, ROQUEFORT, CAMENBERT.  
CHEESE (SAVOIE, CREAM CHEESE, MACLAREN'S and YOUNG AMERICAN  
CHEESE).  
YORK HAM, and BEST ENGLISH BACON. TOYS, TOYS.  
DECORATIONS and CANDLES FOR XMAS TREES.

**G. GIRAULT.**  
**NERNST**  
NERNST ELECTRIC LIGHT.  
BEAUTY OF ILLUMINATION COMBINED WITH GREAT ECONOMY  
AS CHEAP AS GAS!  
FOR PARTICULARS APPLY TO  
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**FILMS,**  
**AND ACCESSORIES.**  
DEVELOPING AND PRINTING UNDERTAKEN.  
GOOD WORK, PROMPT RETURN.

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PHOTO GOODS STORE,  
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Hongkong, 21st December, 1903.

**THE LAHMEYER ELECTRICAL CO. LD.**  
LONDON,  
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ELECTRIZITAETS ACTIEN GESELLSCHAFT FORM.  
W. LAHMEYER & CO., FRANKFURT A/M.  
FOR ESTIMATES OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS OF ANY DESCRIPTION  
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LATEST NOVELTIES IN NECKWEAR.  
HONGKONG HOTEL BUILDINGS.

**VICTORIA HOTEL,**  
SHAMHEEN, CANTON.  
BRITISH CONCESSION.  
GOOD Accommodation.  
Excellent Cuisine.  
Every Convenience for Tourists.  
WM. FARMER, Proprietor.  
Canton, 6th February, 1904.

**CONNAUGHT HOUSE.**  
A FIRST CLASS HOTEL Situated near  
the Banks and Principal Offices.  
Excellent Cuisine and Wines.  
Large and lofty Rooms, Elegantly Furnished  
Hydraulic Elevator, hot and cold water  
throughout.  
Special Rates for Tourists.  
Launch Service for Guests.  
For Terms, apply to the  
MANAGER.  
Hongkong, 31st October, 1902.

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THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE  
COMPANY.  
(ESTABLISHED 1825.)  
Funds ... .. \$10,000,000  
Claims Paid ... .. \$2,000,000  
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THE STANDARD is the ONLY British  
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OF DIRECTORS in the Far East with full  
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claims and surpluses, and advance loans.  
ON THE SPOT without reference home.  
Attention is respectfully drawn to the advan-  
tages of assuring in a large BRITISH Com-  
pany of old reputation.  
For Full Particulars and Rates, apply to—  
Messrs. DODWELL & CO., LD.,  
1891-2 Agents, Hongkong.

**HONGKONG HOTEL.**  
A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL IN EVERY RESPECT  
Elegantly Furnished Reading, Drawing  
Music, Ping-pong and Smoking Rooms.  
Private Bar and Two Billiard Rooms for  
Hotel Residents.  
Dining Accommodation for 300 persons.  
Private and Special Dining Rooms.  
European Chef and Indian Curry Cook.  
Ladies' Afternoon Tea Rooms with European  
Matron in attendance.  
Ladies' Cloak Room.  
Hydraulic Elevators to each Floor.  
Bedroom Accommodation—131 rooms.  
Electric Lighting and Electric Fans, if  
required.  
Hot and Cold Water throughout.  
Wines and Groceries specially imported by  
the Hotel.  
Wines cooled by Hotel refrigerators.  
Hotel Linen washed on Premises by  
machinery.  
Fire Extinguishing Mains and Emergency  
Exits on every floor.  
MODERATE CHARGES! NO EXTRAS!  
H. HAYNES,  
Manager.

**PEAK HOTEL.**  
Admirably Situated. Sheltered from the  
North-East Monsoon and Open to the South  
West Monsoon.  
A COVERED GANGWAY LEADS  
FROM THE TRAMWAY TERMINUS  
INTO THE HOTEL.  
Telephone No. 29.  
Town Office: 7, DUNDAS STREET.

**HOTEL CRAIGIEBURN.**  
PLUNKET'S GAP, The PEAK, near the  
Tram Terminus.  
Tel. 55.  
For Terms, apply to the  
MANAGER.  
Hongkong, 2nd July, 1900.

**KING EDWARD HOTEL.**  
A HIGH CLASS PRIVATE HOTEL.  
Ladies' Afternoon Tea-Rooms.  
Private Bar and Billiard-Rooms.  
Hot and Cold Water throughout.  
Electrically Lighted. Electric Fans (if  
required).  
Electric Passenger Elevator to each floor.  
Table D'Hôte at separate tables.  
For Terms, &c., apply to the  
MANAGER.  
Hongkong, 10th June 1903.

**MACAO HOTEL.**  
WM. FARMER,  
Proprietor.

**"BOA VISTA"**  
(HOTEL-SANITARIUM OF SOUTH  
CHINA)  
MACAO  
HAS been re-opened under European  
management and most strict supervision  
as to food, cleanliness, and hygiene of the place.  
All comforts of a home.  
A most pleasant retreat for those desirous of  
a few days rest and quiet.  
Comfortable accommodation for travellers  
paying a visit to the historical and picturesque  
colony of Macao.  
Macao is 40 miles south-west of Hongkong.  
One steamer (s.s. Heungshan), daily to and  
from Hongkong, and two steamers to and from  
Canton, give easy communication with both  
these centres.  
Cable Address—"Boavista."  
For Terms, apply to  
THE MANAGER.



**A. S. WATSON & CO.,**  
LIMITED

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

**WATSON'S**

CELEBRATED



BLEND

VERY OLD LIQUEUR

SCOTCH WHISKY.

"THERE'S NOT A HEADACHE

IN A WHOLE CASE."

**A. S. WATSON & CO.**  
LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

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Only communications relating to the news columns should be addressed to the Editor. Communications for the advertisement columns should be addressed to the Editor of the Daily Press, not to the Editor of the Daily Press, not to the Editor of the Daily Press, not to the Editor of the Daily Press. All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only. No anonymous communications should be published. Orders for the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash. Telegraphic Address: ENGLAND. Codes: A.S.W. & Co. Ltd. Lieber's P.O. Box, 33, Telephone No. 12

**BIRTH.**

On the 27th February, at No. 1, Bund, Yokohama, the wife of HERBERT IRVING BELL, of a daughter.

**MARRIAGE.**

On the 26th February, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Kobe, and afterwards at Trinity College Chapel, Osaka, FREDERICK PASBURY, to Dr. M. E. OSBORN CLAYTON.

**The Daily Press.**

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD, C.I.  
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.  
HONGKONG: 10TH MARCH, 1904

In the last number which has reached us of the Bombay journal the *Times of India*, there is reproduced a highly important despatch from the Government of India to Mr. BRODRICK, dated the 22nd October last, and published last month. It deals with the question of India and tariff reform at considerable length and in an able manner. Our Bombay contemporary, while publishing the bulk of the despatch, has also a leading article which is worth reading by all those interested in the subject of the attitude of the various parts of the British Empire on the fiscal question. In response to Lord GEORGE HAMILTON's desire to receive suggestions, from the point of view of Indian interests, as to the resolution passed by the Colonial Premiers' Conference in London in 1902 in favour of preferential tariffs, the Indian Government made an endeavour to examine the conditions of Indian trade and finance in their relation to the present tariff, and to consider how they would be affected by any scheme of preferential duties within the Empire, and whether it would be of advantage to India to participate in them. The despatch has been characterised in India as succinct, lucid, and statesmanlike, and the *Times of India* declares that it will be difficult for the most convinced advocates of Imperial reciprocity to disagree with the logic of the document. The conclusion arrived at by the Indian Government is that it is unlikely

that any material advantage will accrue to India from participation in Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's scheme. We could not in this space of a single article follow the reasoning of the despatch with any minuteness, but we may try to give an outline of it.

At the present moment India enjoys the advantages of free interchange of commodities to an exceptional extent. If the matter is regarded from an economic standpoint exclusively, India has something, if not very much, to offer to the Empire; but she has a great deal to risk. The financial danger to India of reprisals by foreign nations is so serious that India would not be justified in embarking on any new policy, unless assured of greater and more certain benefits than the writers of the despatch have in mind. These three sentences give the main conclusions of the Indian Government. Of India's present enjoyment of free interchange of exports there can be no doubt. As the *Times of India* points out, Indian commerce already has the advantages for which tariff reformers at home are contending. There is not in India, as in England, a condition of rapidly rising barriers against the principal exports and of declining foreign trade. The circumstances giving rise to the demand for reform at home are absent in India, where the low tariff for revenue purposes only is entirely free from any trace of protection or preference, and, especially with the excise, acts as no barrier against imports. Of Indian export trade one half pays no duty at all, and the remainder is charged with relatively moderate duties, or, as in the case of the United Kingdom, with duties levied for revenue. What the Government have to consider, says the *Times of India*, is not how to secure a freer interchange of goods, but what would be the effect upon a freedom of interchange already existing in a preferential scheme. The risks run by India from foreign reprisals are plain. Indian imports from the British Empire exceed exports by seven millions and a half sterling; Indian exports to foreign countries, on the other hand, exceed imports by upwards of thirty millions sterling. The despatch comments hereon:—"Inasmuch as India is a debtor country it follows therefore that we are at present dependent on our trade with foreign countries for the discharge of our net international obligations. This is an element of first importance in the consideration of the present question." Later, the despatch continues:—"By ten years of effort, sacrifice, and perseverance we have slowly built up a fair measure of public confidence in the stability of our finance. . . . But, if by a change of the fiscal policy, the balance of trade in our favour should dwindle or disappear, the whole work of ten years would be sacrificed, and a set-back to our trade, our revenues, and our credit would immensely outweigh any benefits that we might reasonably expect from a most unconditional surrender of our opponents in the war of tariffs." Against this danger, the preferential advantage which might be hoped for is light in the balance. If duties are not to be imposed on raw materials imported into the United Kingdom, India can receive no advantage in the home market for these. This would rule out all India's staple exports except wheat, the most fluctuating of all. Even wheat would have to meet the competition of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom itself on even terms. Indian and Ceylon tea already command the home market. The only articles of Indian production likely to benefit by preferential treatment are tobacco and indigo, unimportant items in the export returns.

The conclusion of the Indian Government's despatch considers the case of the United Kingdom adopting a policy of preferential tariffs or of retaliation, when if India adheres to her former principle of refusing to differentiate between different countries' import she might become the battlefield of conflicting interests, in which she has no direct concern. A foreign country, secure in possession of a free and equal market for its goods in India, might be emboldened to penalise Indian trade in order to bring pressure to bear on the mother country or the colonies. This danger would be less threatening, says the despatch, if other countries were to know that India would be prepared, if need be, to retaliate in kind on their imports into India. In no circumstances, however, would India allow a policy of retaliation to develop into one of aggression. The writers of the despatch are hopeful that the mere announcement that India's hands are free to act against those penalising her exports will suffice to maintain her in enjoyment of her present measure of free exchange or even to

extend it. The *Times of India* points out that the able analysis of India's present fiscal policy contained in the despatch is inferentially a powerful argument in support of Mr. BALFOUR's plea for retaliatory powers. "India owes her present 'advantages partly to the nature of her export trade and partly to the circumstance that she has a tariff to bargain with. By using this tariff she has secured 'better terms for Indian coffee from protestant France; the memorandum broadly hints that by the freer employment of it more liberal terms might be extorted elsewhere, and that it must be regarded as a weapon held in reserve if the Powers attempt to make India the whipping-boy for a fiscally heretical England. This is precisely the position in which Mr. BALFOUR wishes to place Great Britain." We recommend all those who are interested in the subject to read the Indian Government's despatch.

Parade for the Hongkong Volunteers will be held at Head Quarters for Battalion Drill at 3 p.m. on Saturday, the 12th inst.

The opening ceremony of the newly-constructed railway between Taiqua and Toroku in Formosa took place on the 28th ult., Mr. Goto, Chief of the Administration, being present at the ceremony.

Besides the two large battleships ordered from England, the Japanese Government has arranged, according to a Tokyo despatch to the *Osaka Mainichi*, that work will shortly be taken in hand for the construction of three destroyers at the Admiralty yard of Yokosuka. The despatch adds that the authorities have also decided to build a submarine for the Japanese Navy.

Recently, as our readers will remember, the *Toyoko Kisen Kaisha* s.s. *America-maru* was chartered by the Japanese Government, whose intention it was to utilise the vessel as a supplementary cruiser. The *America-maru* was almost ready at Yokosuka, but now it is considered that as so much damage has been done to the Russian fleet these supplementary vessels will not be required, and it is possible that the *America-maru's* war dress will be removed and the steamer returned to the Company for the resumption of the San Francisco-Manila run.

Yesterday morning, says the *Nagasaki Press* of the 27th ult., we received a call from Colonel Abdoulah Youssouf, the Turkish officer who, as previously reported in our columns, came to Japan for the purpose of offering the services of many of his countrymen to the Government during the war with Russia. In the course of an interview the Colonel expressed his regret that the authorities did not accept his offer, and stated his conviction that this war with Russia was a just one, and that the sympathy of the civilised world was extended to Japan in her hour of trial. He also stated that he had served under Viscount Kitchener in the Sudan and was intimate in that campaign with the late Sir Hector Macdonald. The Colonel left on the *Seiyunji* for India.

The new British battleship *Africa*, of which the first keel-plat was laid recently at Chatham, will be a vessel of the largest size. Her displacement at deep draught will be 16,423 tons, as compared with 2,164 of Nelson's ship the *Victory*, built at Chatham nearly 150 years ago. She is one of a class of eight battleships called after the principal parts of the British Empire. The *Africa* will be a battleship of the *King Edward VII.* class, and will be the largest and widest vessel ever constructed at Chatham dockyard. Her length "overall" will be 431ft. 9in., and her breadth 78ft. The engines will be of 18,000 horse-power, which will impart a speed of 18.5 knots. The vessel will have a powerful armament of broad-side and quick-firing guns. The ship's complement, exclusive of Admiral and Staff, will be 777.

**MADAME CANDUTTI'S CONCERT.**

As will have been already learnt from the express notices issued yesterday, Madame Candutti was obliged to abandon her concert, advertised for last night, owing to the breakdown of her piano. Madame Candutti leaves for Shanghai to-day, to fulfil engagements there, to the general regret of the music-lovers of Hongkong, who wish her better luck in Shanghai.

**THE OPENING OF KONGMOON.**

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Kongmoon, 7th March.  
At 10 o'clock this morning the Acting Commissioner of Customs personally hoisted the Chinese ensign on the Customs flagstaff, a guard of honour from the revenue steamer *Fai-hoo* presenting arms; the red ensign and the Chinese dragon flag fluttered from two houseboats, the temporary headquarters of H.B.M. Consul and the Commissioner of Customs respectively, while three guns boomed forth from the revenue steamer. The ceremony over, the general Commissioner of Customs invited all the foreigners present to his houseboat, where a bumper was drunk to the health of the new treaty port.

This was the Port of Kongmoon formally opened to trade.

H.M.S. *Moore* and the French gunboat *Argus* are in port.

The weather is cold and dull with every prospect of heavy rain.

## TELEGRAMS. JAPAN DURING THE WAR.

**REUTER'S SERVICE.**

**THE BOMBARDMENT OF VLADIVOSTOCK.**

LONDON, 7th March.

A published telegram from Admiral Alexeff, transmitting the Commandant of Vladivostock's report, ends abruptly with the words "the enemy opened fire." Yesterday evening's messages, which are un-official, estimate the bombardment to have cost £20,000 in shells, mostly 6in. and 12in.

**JAPANESE RELIEF FUND IN LONDON.**

LONDON, 7th March.

The fund in London for the widows and families of Japanese soldiers and sailors has reached £7,600.

**JAPAN'S ADVANCE ON MANCHURIA.**

LONDON, 7th March.

Russian scouts report that the Japanese who had landed in Plakina (?) Bay are returning, in order to try a more practicable route towards Manchuria. The passes are blocked with avalanches.

**CONTRABAND OF WAR.**

LONDON, 7th March.

Mr. Balfour says that Russia's declaration that coal is contraband of war is of great importance, and that he is taking steps to obtain more precise information.

**PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MR. COWEN.**

LONDON, 7th March.

Earl Percy, replying in the House to Mr. Toulmin, and his approval of the action of Sir E. Satow in ordering proceedings to be taken against Mr. Cowen, the Editor of the *China Times*, which had quoted certain defamatory articles against Russia.

**NAVAL NOTES.**

H.M.S. *Cressy* arrived from Mira Bay yesterday morning; while H.M.S. *Talbot* left her moorings, presumably for a cruise. The s.s. *Mercedes* arrived from Wellington yesterday with 7,000 tons of coal for the Admiralty.

**HOCKEY.**

H.K.H.C. v. H.M.S. "VENGEANCE."

Played on the Club ground at Happy Valley yesterday afternoon, this game ended in a win for the *Vengeance*. In the first half the *Vengeance* scored two goals; the Club one. In the second half the *Vengeance* scored another two, the game ending:—H.M.S. *Vengeance*, 4; H.K.H.C., 1.

**FOOTBALL.**

H.M.S. "CRESSY" v. H.M.S. "LEVIATHAN."

The semi-final in the Football Shield Competition was played on the Club Ground at Happy Valley yesterday afternoon. The *Leviathan* kicked off, making a rush on their opponents' goal. The *Cressy* keeper made a goal save within the first few minutes. Murphy, of the *Leviathan*, hurt his ankle and was carried off the field, being taken away to hospital in a ricksha. The *Leviathan* thus were one man short. McCoy (*Cressy*) scored the first goal; Mills (*Cressy*) a second. The *Leviathans*, though they played an excellent game, did not score in the first half. On the re-start the play was again very fast, the *Leviathans* having decidedly the best of it. Kinch (*Leviathan*) scored a goal; and a little later Oldham scored another, making the scores level. An exceptionally good game ended in a draw:—H.M.S. *Cressy*, 2; H.M.S. *Leviathan*, 2.

**A MILITARY WEDDING AT HONGKONG.**

Sergeant Thornhill, R.E., was yesterday morning, at St. John's Cathedral, married to Miss Austin, of Hongkong. Some 20 non-commissioned officers, in full-dress, white gloves, swords, etc., were present, besides a number of ladies, and a few civilians. Mr. Horley led the bride to the altar; Miss Rhoda Varcoe was bridesmaid; Staff-Sergeant G. H. Taylor, R.E., best man. After the marriage ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, the united couple passed down the aisle under crossed swords, making an exit from the Cathedral amid showers of rice; while the bells burst forth in a merry peal from the tower. The party then proceeded to the reception, held in the rooms above the Soldiers' Club in Queen's Road. Included in the presents were a silver tea-service, presented by the Soldiers' Club; a silver table-centre, presented by the junior non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers; silver napkin-rings, spoons, screens, table sets, vases, etc., and many other useful articles.

**WEATHER REPORT.**

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—

On the 9th at 11.10 a.m. The barometer has risen slightly in the Yangtze valley, where pressure is now highest, and fallen in south China.

Gradients are moderate on the China coast and slight elsewhere. Moderate to fresh monsoon will prevail in the Formosa channel, and light variable winds over the China sea.

Forecast:—Light S. winds; overcast, dull.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, 24th February.

The daily question is "What news? what news?" The same reply is always given: "There is no news, this is the period of waiting." Strange as it may seem, battles require even more preparation than the acts of a play in a theatre, and the public must wait till all is ready. All clamour is useless; the managers keep the curtain down until they are satisfied that all is ready. We try to coax: if we have to wait, let us go and do our waiting in the place where the preparations are going on, let us amuse ourselves and pass the time watching. But the reply, courteously inflexible, is—what would a correspondent do there? Why, he would correspond, of course; and that is just the thing that cannot be.

The Japanese authorities are perfectly right. Secrecy regarding their plan of campaign is an essential to the success of their life-and-death struggle with the huge Power, the bully of Europe, and the insatiable devourer of Asia. From Port Arthur to Vladivostok is a long, exposed line of communications, which Japan can threaten at a hundred points, and keep the Russians in a fever of apprehension, running hither and thither to meet incessant alarms, while a tremendous, overwhelming combined move may be in preparation at some little-suspected spot. And if Russia occupied Korea, so much the longer line would she expose to swift descents of Japanese forces from the sea which they command completely. The trump card which Japan holds, by her sea power, is the ability to attack suddenly at any unknown point of a long line. Suddenness depends on secrecy. And secrecy and Pressmen are incompatible. One or the other must be sacrificed, and the Japanese are wisely determined that their national existence shall not be imperilled for the sake of British newspaper-readers or any other. The mere fact of letting one correspondent go forward would mean having to let all go; and if London papers, even without a line of information about troops, simply said, "Our special correspondent was last heard of at Bingwang," this would be immediately noted by eager Russians, who could infer that the correspondents would not be there if there was nothing to see. Moreover, if Pressmen were allowed on the scene, some one of them would surely be unable to resist the temptation to smuggle his "news" away despite all precautions and regardless of consequences; for there are such deeds done sometimes. Already two or three men have been plainly warned to leave the Far East entirely, because they were found dangerous in this way. A newspaper triumph might conceivably wreck an empire.

So, one begins to be afraid of saying even what is allowed to be seen. Day by day I see trainloads of soldiers leaving Tokyo in full campaign order, with all impediments for active service; for my own information I can count, pretty fairly, how many men fill a compartment of the train, how many there are per train, how many trains, and so on; and I would greatly like to tell you the figure which is in my mind, representing the troops that have passed down Japan's main trunk railway from the headquarters to the shipping place. I would like to tell you, but not to tell the Russians.

Some idea of the gigantic struggle that is to come may be gathered from the indications in the Tsar's published statements. He is reported to have declared that the Russian people must not look for early success, as it was intended to deal a tremendous blow with all the weight of the empire's forces, which would take months to prepare; meantime the Russian defence centres at Harbin, far in the interior. If the Tsar means what he is quoted as saying, he means to take up a position where Japan cannot attack so easily as from the sea, yet where he would constantly menace the Japanese if they confined their attention to the seaboard. This, then, would be a war with armies running into the hundreds of thousands, not mere tens of thousands as when Japan beat another supposed "Colossus," ten years ago. The war may range over thousands of miles of the wildest country, it may reach Titian dimensions, like those of Bajazet and Timur the Tartar, Genghis, and Kublai Khan. At any rate, I think there is no harm in saying that Japan appears to be ready for some such enormous effort.

There were in ordinary times 34 trains per day carrying passengers from Tokyo to Yokohama and farther west. Now there are ten; the difference represents not necessarily a precise number of troop-trains, but so much ordinary traffic stopped to allow for military requirements. And the troop-trains are so frequent that the country people, at any rate the village children and many adults, seem to pass all their time now alongside the railway, cheering the soldiers as they are borne past from time to time. All along the line, about every half-mile, there are gay decorations on a somewhat elaborate scale, for simple peasantry; festoons of flags and lanterns, lighted up at night with occasional fireworks, devices in evergreens, model warships, and so on. And at night numerous bonfires are kindled, and the country-folk wait round these until late into the wintry nights, shouting loyally as the trains go by. At the stations, and in the streets of big towns, the enthusiasm takes more imposing form; whole streets are arched, festooned, gaily decked and illuminated after dark, while cheering crowds can sometimes be heard at midnight, a mile or two across the town.

All this bare show is touching, when one knows that such demonstrations in Japan are purely dutiful and by instruction, never spontaneous. These people are willing, eager, to show their devotion, but they never do such things of themselves. Paternalism

goes so far, with these dutiful people, that they never say "Hurrah" until the policeman, or the village headman, or some person in authority, signifies that this is the correct moment. They hang out banners joyfully, when told by the authorities. In such matters they invariably wait to be told. There is little or no spontaneity, as we understand it. Yet the enthusiasm is real and thorough, even though so docile and disciplined. A Japanese will be proud and happy to die for his Emperor, yet would never dare to cheer him when passing in the street, for such a thing has never yet been sanctioned.

At Shinbashi station I saw two women, perhaps mother and daughter, crying, and a small boy with them. He also cried, till he noticed a foreigner, and then he just stared gravely. He came forward a step or two, so I asked "What makes you cry, little man?" He managed to understand my Japanese, and said, "Father gone to war. Mother and sister, all crying." "Father cry too?" "Not a bit—disagreeable old beast!"

The more I see of the country and people now, the more I see history simply repeating itself. The world has generally imagined that the war of ten years ago between Japan and China was a farce, that the Chinese did not fight, and that the Japanese had a walk-over, proving nothing as to their capabilities. The world at large does not think very carefully. My view of that war, which I went through from beginning to end, was that the Chinese made by no means a poor fight; they did even better than I think some nations of Europe would do, and the Japanese won, not by a walk-over, but by sheer hard fighting and skillful tactics. They tackled an opponent just ten times their size, an opponent that had been long dreaded by the rest of the world. Now, Russia is no bigger than China. It fills more space on the map, but that is a disadvantage. I cannot help thinking it is the same old story of the torpedo and the whale; bulk counts for nothing against fire and force. The Chinese were defeated because of defects which the Russians also possess in very marked degree: officers steeped in penmanship and corruption, more given to pursuit of pleasure and dissipation than to earnest work; men more clods, underpaid, brutalised, brave enough, but too dull-witted to be of use. I have not seen all the regiments of Russia, but I marched to Peking in 1900 with something like 20,000 Russians, of the same sort that will face the Japanese, and I could not help thinking they were like so many thousand sheep or bullocks. Armies of millions are valueless if made of material inferior to their opponents. From what I have seen of Russians and Japanese and Chinese in action, I think the points of essential difference between the war of 1904 and that of 1894 will prove surprisingly small.

One difference is in the number of foreign Pressmen and military attachés. In those days there were very few, only three or four of each; now there are shoals of them, dozens and scores of them. Japan treats them only too well; in this tedious "wait between the acts," the whole war passes its time dining and winning, attending lavish banquets offered by enthusiastic Japanese on one pretext or another, with geisha-dances, acrobats and jugglers, and all kinds of entertainment. Some of the foreign guests dine not wisely but too well in these festive gatherings, and make extraordinary exhibitions of themselves before their astonished Oriental hosts. "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre!" In every village and mountain glen, there are daily enacted thrilling and touching scenes, worthy the cleverest pen or brush. But in Tokyo the daily complaint is "No news; we must wait."

**HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.**

A meeting of the Board will be held to-day, 10th March, at 4.15 p.m.

1. Mr. Ahmet Rumjahn pursuant to notice will move:—

That steps be taken by the Board to remedy the defects in the drainage system introduced by the Sanitary Surveyor into the block of buildings known as Nos. 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, and 60 Cairne Road; and generally to remedy similar defects existing in any other property where the floor of an building is conveyed into the yard of another through open surface channels:

2. Questions by Mr. Ahmet Rumjahn and replies by the Acting Medical Officer of Health and the Surveyor thereon.

3. Further correspondence relative to the application for exemption from the provision of full yard spaces for Nos. 2 to 7, Star Street.

4. Application for permission to use the basement of No. 43, Cochrane Street, for the preparation of food.

5. Applications for licences and for the renewal of licences to sell food for man outside the markets.

6. Application for permission to sink a well on Marine Lot 185.

7. Application for the renewal of fat-boiling licences in respect of Nos. 5, 6 and 28, Temple Street, Yau-mati.

8. Correspondence relative to the paving of dairies and laundries.

9. Reports of the analyses of the public water supplies for the month of February, 1904.

10. Lime-washing Return for the fortnight ended the 1st March, 1904.

11. Rat Return for the fortnight ended the 7th March, 1904.

G. A. WOODCOCK,  
Secretary.























